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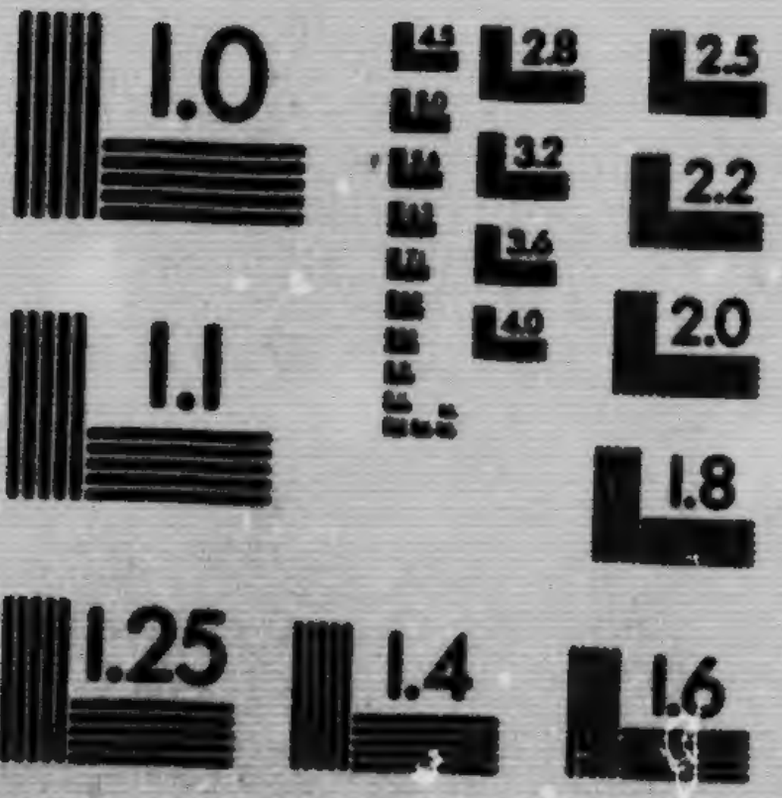

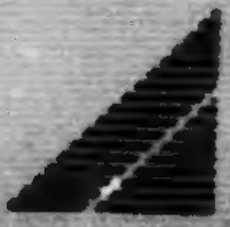

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RURAL SCHOOL FAIRS

And Other Junior Work of the Ontario Department of Agriculture

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ADDRESS BY

W. B. ROADHOUSE

Deputy Minister of Agriculture

At Experimental Union, O. A. C., Guelph, January, 1916

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RURAL SCHOOL FAIRS.

Mr. W. B. Roadhouse, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Toronto, said in part:

During the past three or four years the Ontario Department of Agriculture has been endeavouring to carry out certain plans with a view to interesting the young men in the rural districts in the work of agriculture. These have been inaugurated and developed quietly and unostentatiously until at the present time they cover, to a very large degree, the whole Province. In fact, so great is their extent and so impressive their importance that the Executive of the Experimental Union thought it advisable to have a statement of the junior work of the Department of Agriculture submitted to this gathering at these sessions. The plans are very largely carried out by the District Representatives as part of their manifold work in the counties, and they, therefore, come under the immediate direction of Mr. C. F. Bailey, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture, and it would be very fitting and appropriate if he could be here to present the story. The success achieved in the work has been due in no small degree to his ability, energy and enthusiasm. I join with you, therefore, in the sincere regret that owing to illness Mr. Bailey is not here himself as advertised to tell this story.

Let me cite at first just briefly the object in view—the problem in reaching the young. Up to a few years ago the work of the Department of Agriculture consisted of agencies and organizations which dealt very largely with the adult farmer, and little, if any, attention was paid to the boys and girls and young men. This fact impressed us in the Department as one which merited special attention, and it seemed that here lay a problem which awaited solution and which would give, to those who would utilize the time, results which would be gratifying to them and of benefit to the Province as a whole. Hence, we took up this work. We endeavoured to bear in mind the fact that our purview lay along the highways and byways and the side lines of the country. It was not our province to invade the jurisdiction of the school, because the school had its own work to perform. It could do much, and was doing much in connection with agricultural education, but outside of that altogether it seemed there might be scope for work among these boys and girls at their homes and on their farms. We recognize that "it is the mind that makes the body rich," and also that we learn to do by doing, and if we could link together in some way these two ideas, we might point the way in the mind of the rising generations to "higher things and better days." How, then, could this be accomplished? In some counties of this Province, as in some States across the border, a limited amount of work along this line had been done. In the county of Waterloo, school fairs had been held, the same sort of organization which we now have all over the Province, but serving only a limited area. In that idea we found the germ of a plan which we felt might be extended and broadened to cover the whole Province of Ontario. Hence in 1912, we took hold of this idea and made it the policy of the Department to conduct Rural School Fairs, and thereby interest and educate to a certain degree the boys and girls who at that time were not receiving so very much attention from other sources. As I have already said it was not our aim to encroach upon the territory of the school. While they are termed School Fairs they are so called because the school of the community is the center of organization, and as a rule the School Fair is held on the school ground, though not necessarily so. It

was our plan to supplement the work of the school by giving them something which would interest and occupy the minds of the boys and girls outside of school hours. We were very glad, indeed, to have the hearty co-operation of the school teachers, school trustees, school inspectors and all those interested in the organization of the Educational Department. Before I go any further permit me at this point to acknowledge with gratitude that co-operation, and to bespeak its continuance in a still greater degree in the future.

Modest Start in 1912.

In 1912 we started out with twenty-five of these School Fairs. That was a small number compared with the greatness of this Province and the number of pupils in attendance at the schools in the rural districts. Gradually, year by year, it increased until last year, 1915, there were two hundred and thirty-four School Fairs conducted throughout the Province, embracing 2,291 rural schools, practically one-half the rural schools of Ontario, taking in 48,386 pupils who grew their grain and their vegetables on over 51,000 plots, and among whom we distributed some 6,868 settings of eggs, aggregating over 75,000 eggs altogether, most of which were distributed from the poultry plant of this institution. The greater part of the eggs supplied to the children were of the laying strain of Barred Rock hens. There were at the School Fairs a total of 116,000 entries with an attendance of 72,000 children and 84,000 adults, and these results, I take it, that are the chief reasons why the Experimental Union considered that this movement had attained sufficient volume to justify at this time a statement of what is being done.

How a School Fair is Organized.

A word as to the organization of the School Fair. As you have already gathered it is under the immediate direction in each county of a District Representative who groups eight, ten, or twelve schools in the best arrangement, geographically. It is not necessary that each group should be confined within the limitations of any particular township boundaries. It is not essential that it be governed by any strict rule except that of convenience. A point is located where the selected group of schools will converge most conveniently. Having done that the next step is to visit the schools and effect organization. Each district has its own School Fair organization, and each school is called upon to elect a representative to this Board from among the pupils. This election is often very keenly contested, the children setting aside a few minutes during the day to nominate the persons whom they wish to represent them, and I am told that they show singular ability in picking out the best boy or girl as representative on the board. The representatives of each school come together in the office, perhaps, of the District Representative, and organize their association. They elect their President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer from among themselves, and the balance are on the Board of Directors, with the District Representative as General Manager. Imagine then, if you can, a meeting of the members of the Rural School Fair Association assembled around a large table. There sits the president at the head presiding over the meeting, and having in the meantime looked up the best possible parliamentary procedure to cover gatherings of that kind, he directs the order of business and the boys and girls bring on their motions in true parliamentary style. They submit their proposals as to rules and regulations, and lay their plans for raising money, attending also to other details which are necessary to successful organization. In that meeting alone is a training of no small value.

Distributing Seed and Eggs.

After organization they are ready to receive their seeds and eggs. These are distributed at the school by the District Representative, he having first learned how many seeds are required in the different classes of crops, and how many settings of eggs are needed; these the children take home. Bear in mind that each child when he or she goes home must select the ground which is to be used for the experiment, must sow the seed, must fertilize and cultivate it, and must also set the eggs. Then in the summer the District Representative, or his assistant, pays a visit to the farm, has personal interviews with the boys or girls regarding their plots, scores them in accordance with the most approved methods, and points out how they may improve their work. Prizes are awarded on this inspection for the best plots, as well as for the products of the plots when shown at the fair. Many of the Associations have made it a practise to pay all the prizes by cheque, and although the prizes are small amounts, still, the very fact that they have to make out that cheque in strictly business form, take it to the bank, sign their names on the back of same and collect their money, is in itself a business training which many of us in our boyhood knew nothing about.

Financing the School Fairs.

School Fairs, of course, cost money, and how is this money raised? First of all there are money prizes which are paid in cash and aggregate from $80 to $150 which must be raised by the local Association. The Department has made that a rule from the beginning, and believes they have fully justified the rule because it develops the trait of self-confidence, local co-operation, and the hearty support of all in the community which is so essential to the success of this organization. This amount of money is spread over ten schools and is not very large for any one school. The boys go to the school trustees, submit their plans and ask for a grant, and perhaps receive $5 from each school board. Then they go to a township council and probably get a grant of from $20 to $25, and here again the experience is very helpful in developing the boy's business instinct, and the girl's too, as girls are occasionally selected for this work. There is another very considerable expense the larger proportion in fact, in connection with the organization, and that is the time spent in visiting the schools, in inspecting plots and the expense of livery and automobile hire necessary in order to cover the large area. This as well as the cost of the seeds is borne by the Department of Agriculture, and because of the educational value of these competitions we consider it very well spent.

The Fair is the Climax of the Season.

I have dealt with the formation, organization and financing of the work, and just a word now about the School Fair itself.

The School Fair is necessarily an important part of the scheme. It is the climax of the real work that has been going on through the summer months. It provides an incentive, without which the hard work which has gone before would not be possible. Hence the reason why the School Fair is held. There are competitions in all of the various lines which have been suggested, in oats, barley, potatoes, chickens and cows, cooking and fancy work. Not only that, but there is also a competition for essay writing, telling how they grew their crops, how they raised their chickens; and in addition to all we have during the past few years established an oratorical contest. I can assure you in all confidence that some of

the efforts which I have heard on the part of twelve or thirteen-year-old boys, who have given learned dissertations on the causes of the war and the financial and economic status of the various European nations, would compare favourably with speeches of those many years older. The School Fair also combines a social time with its educational and recreative feature, and has come to be more than a mere meeting place, for the people of the community enjoy this outing and take a pride in the achievements of their boys and girls. On one point we insist and that is that the Fair must be held by itself, separate from other attractions and organizations so that there will be nothing to overshadow or detract from the importance of the boys and girls and the work. This is a really important point.

Hence, it is, that I commend the School Fair to you, for three reasons: First, because of its beneficial influence on the child. I heard a story not long ago which illustrates the brightness of some of the little girls. One little girl had returned home from school one evening and when she turned to her father she said: "I am the brightest little girl in ir school." Her father naturally said he was very glad to hear it and then said: "Did the teacher tell you that, Mary?" She said: "Oh, no, I noticed it myself." This shows that even at that young age they begin to notice things, and it is not a far step to conclude that they will notice the difference between good and bad seed, between good and bad cultivation, between proper fertilization and no fertilization at all, and other elementary matters which will result in better farming. The pupils are of a very enquiring and experimental turn of mind. The whole trend of this work must necessarily be to give agriculture a fair start with those who are choosing a vocation. There is a lot said about keeping the boys on the farm. I do not intend to go into that. I have read that the School Fairs Movement and other agricultural organizations are described as part of a conspiracy to compel the boys to stay on the farm. Nothing can be more ridiculous or absurd, but this it will do: it will give agriculture a fair chance as a vocation which combines the use of one's brains with manual labor, and it will make a boy or a girl more efficient no matter what line of occupation he or she may take up.

Testimony From Parents.

Second, it has an important influence on the agricultural and social life of the community. I have already mentioned something of the social life. Let me just illustrate what I mean by the influence it will have on the agricultural community. Here is the testimony of a District Representative, who says:

"One man, whose boy took Empire State seed potatoes for his School Fair plot showed me the crop which the boy was exhibiting this year and said they were the best potatoes for his farm he had yet tried, and that he had enough seed to plant his entire crop for the next year, and intended to grow nothing else."

You see that had a distinctly good influence on that agricultural community. Just another illustration as reported by a District Representative:

"Another man came to me and told me that he had had great success with A.C. No. 72 oats. From the boy's experimental plot he says they threshed seventeen pounds of well cleaned oats, and from this seed produced 25 bushels of excellent oats this year. The boy exhibited a sample at the Fair and they were certainly very clean. The man finished by saying that he had not seen an oat that could compare with them."

This influence on the community must have a good effect on the adult farmer. I have already mentioned to you the fact that there were over 51,000 plots, which means that the District Representative or his assistant personally visited over

50,000 farms in the Province of Ontario last year, and came in contact with the boy and in many cases with the parents on these farms. It has been our experience, and I think the experience has its basis in human nature, that the pride of the boy or girl in this work is more than ever reflected by the pride of the parents. Very frequently the man, who before had had no use for what he described under mistaken notions as "book learning;" the man who thought that School Fairs and Experimental Unions were nothing but a waste of money, has come to realize through the work of the boy, and through the visit of the District Representative, that it is not more theory, but puts real dollars and cents into his pocket, and that is a line of argument he is prepared to listen to because he can readily understand it.

Third, then there is the sentimental aspect. The parents see their children prospering and developing, and obtaining efficiency in all the different lines of agricultural work, and there have come to us few more gratifying contributions than these words from a parent who has been interested in this work. He said:

"It has been an inspiration to me to keep in touch with our school childrens' lives, and some day we will call that man blessed who instigated School Fairs."

Courses for the Older Boys.

There are one or two other important agencies which I wish to mention. Among the most important of these, having regard to the older boys in the country, are the four to six weeks' courses which are held by the District Representatives throughout the county. Over forty of these are now in progress, having started yesterday. Last year there were forty-three of them, combining in all 1,114 students. Bear in mind that this is not a passing experience. They get together from four to six weeks for solid study. The morning is devoted to lecture work, the afternoon to visits to farms, and in this way they combine training in both practise and theory without which no real success can be obtained. Out of these have grown many agencies, and I will mention one or two of them at the present time. The Junior Farmers' Improvement Association originated as a result of these courses. We have now, I think, about thirty of such Associations with over eight hundred members. They were organized in order to make permanent the associations and benefits which were secured at these courses. They plan to meet from month to month during the year to carry on certain experiments, to test different varieties of crops for growing in their particular district, and hope in this way to improve upon local varieties. Then, too, these courses have resulted in the Acre Profit, and the Dairy and Live Stock Competitions. These competitions are limited to those who have attended short courses, and are, therefore, composed largely of young men ranging in age from eighteen to twenty-five years.

Profits Which Count.

Very frequently, perhaps, on casual thought there is no difference between yields and profits, but when you get down to a close analysis you see their is a distinct difference, and that after all it is profits which count. A man might pick out the best acre on a farm, spend large amounts for fertilizer, and might bestow upon that acre unlimited labor and then produce a crop which would startle the world by reason of its magnitude. At the same time it might not show a profit and therefore not be practical farming, and consequently it is required that not only the yield but the profit shall be taken into consideration. In many cases it

has been the heaviest yielding crop that has realized the greatest profits, but it is not always so. These competitions have been held all over the Province, and there is an attendance at this institution at the persent time of some eighty young men who have headed their communities in various competitions. Their attendance here has been made possible by the receipt of prizes which consist of all expenses for two weeks during their stay at this College, and their railway fare to and from Guelph. I would like to call your attention to what some of these young men have been able to do in these competitions. In oats the maximum yield was 100 bushels, with a profit of $23.98 per acre. Compare that yield with the average for the Province of 41 bushels. The maximum yield of mangels was 1,652 bushels per acre, and of barley 51 bushels per acre, the average yield for the Province of this last being 36 bushels per a re.

Developing our Greatest Asset.

These are some of the things that the Ontario Department of Agriculture is endeavouring to work out, in a desire to inaugurate and develop a policy of interest to boys and girls and young men in the country districts. Conceived in times of peace and security, but maintained and developed in times of war, it represents an effort to educate and interest the boys and girls and young men for self-improvement along practical lines. I believe that every short course, every school fair, and every competition which is held is a recruiting station for the Ontario Agricultural College, and for better agriculture. It is our purpose then to persevere in this work, to correct mistakes as they may occur, and to develop as opportunity offers. We welcome criticism if criticism is due, and rejoice in the co-operation of all those who are interested in better farming and better living in this fair Province of ours. Amid the wreck of empires and crash of worlds which we are witnessing at the present time, there are many doubts and misgivings as to what the future holds in store. Through all the clouds of uncertainty, there emerges, however, this one great fact for us to consider: that our future depends upon the manner in which we conserve and develop the natural resources of this Province. I submit to you that there are no more important natural resources than the boys and girls living along the side lines of rural Ontario at the present time, and consequently it follows, as naturally as the day follows night, that we have there one of the most important opportunities which awaits our Province. I commend it, therefore, to your thought and attention, and to your sympathetic good will and assistance.

APPENDIX

REGULATIONS AND SAMPLE PRIZE LIST GOVERNING SCHOOL FAIRS.

Organization.

School Fairs must be separate and distinct from County or Township Fairs. The Department will not assist in financing Fairs conducted in any other way, unless special permission has been granted.

Group your schools in districts, including not more than 12 in each.

School Fair Boards.

A School Fair Board composed of 3 children should be formed in each school, to be chosen by vote of the pupils. The pupil receiving the highest number of votes shall be the Chairman of the Board.

School Fair Associations.

A School Fair Association should be formed in each district, composed of the Chairmen of the School Fair Boards in the district. They should meet at some central point and select a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The others shall be known as Directors. The District Representative shall be the Manager of the School Fair Association.

All work in connection with the Fair should, as far as possible, be divided up among Committees of the Fair Association, so that the District Representative will have no special duties to perform but have general supervision in co-operation with the teachers and School Inspectors.

A financial statement of each Association should be prepared each year and a copy supplied to each school in the district.

Announcements.

Dispense with the printed announcement. Send a circular (duplicator) to each school, giving list of crops, number of settings of eggs allowed, etc. Do not include directions as to growing plots or raising chickens. These should accompany seed and eggs.

Seed.

Have each school select the same number of each crop.

Five girls in each School may have flowers, provided they also have a plot or setting of eggs.

Only products from seed supplied by the Department may be exhibited at School Fairs.

Typewritten instructions as to size of plot and growing of crop should be put in each bag of seed. Flower and vegetable seeds supplied by this Department will have printed directions on the package.

Following are the sizes of the plots and the amount of seed required:—

Oats: 1 rod by 3 rods, ¾ lb. of seed.

Barley: 1 rod by 2 rods, 1 lb. of seed.

Potatoes: 4 rows, each 18 feet long, 30 inches apart, plants 15 inches apart; 5 lbs. of seed or 56 sets.

Mangels and Turnips: 4 rows, each 18 feet long, 30 inches apart, plants 15 inches apart; 1 package.

Corn: 4 rows of 5 hills, 40 inches apart each way, 3 kernels per hill; 1 cob (use seed from centre of cob); (weed out four weakest plants).

Beets, Carrots, Onions, Parsnips: 4 rows, each 18 feet long, 20 inches apart; 1 package.

Eggs.

Typewritten directions for hatching, etc., should accompany eggs.

Only 3 settings of eggs will be allowed each school. The pupils to receive same should be decided by vote of the school. Each pupil receiving a setting will pay 25c. to go to the School Fair Association. Do not demand a pullet from each child receiving eggs.

If other pupils desire eggs, you may, on order from their parents, supply same from any source, provided that the price is not more than 5c. per egg. Expense of delivery will be borne by the Department, but the parents must pay the cost price of the eggs. Birds from these eggs will be eligible for entry at the School Fair.

Inspection.

Where possible the Chairman of the School Fair Board should accompany the District Representative when he is inspecting the plots of the pupils in the school.

Prize Lists.

Prize money should be secured locally. $3.00 to $5.00 from each school should be sufficient. County and Township Councils should also be approached.

Where calves and colts are included in the Prize List there should be a regulation stating that the animals be halter broken and shown on the halter by the exhibitor.

The teacher and parent must give a certificate that the manual training and cooking has been done by the pupil.

In addition to holding sports during judging of exhibits, part of this time might be used in conducting competitions that would be interesting to spectators, for example, poultry plucking, plain sewing, public speaking, etc.

Dates of Fairs, Judging, etc.

To facilitate the judging at Fairs, the Counties will be grouped in two's. Consult the other Representative before arranging dates of Fairs.

Where a School Fair is said to conflict with a Township Fair an effort should be made to hold the School Fair a week or ten days later than the Fall Fair.

At least ten minutes *must* be devoted to judges giving reasons for placing awards and discussing the exhibits in general.

In no case shall an entrance fee be charged at School Fairs.

School Fair Pins.

School Fair pins will be supplied to all children not included in the work last year. Notify this office as soon as you know the number required, so that you may have them to distribute with the seed and eggs.

Badges, Prize Ribbons, Entry Tickets.

These will be supplied by the Department.

Cheque Forms.

In some Counties the teacher in each school was entrusted with funds equal to the total winnings of the school. Cheques were issued to the children and cashed by the teacher. If you desire to adopt this scheme, cheque forms will be supplied by the Department upon application.

Rules and Regulations of Local Fairs.

1. No entry fee will be charged for any of the exhibits.
2. No admission fee.
3. All exhibits from classes 25 to 36 inclusive and class 50 must be entirely the work of the exhibitor and must be accompanied by a certificate to this effect, signed by the parents, guardian or teacher. Any person violating this rule is liable to lose all prize money won in this and all other classes.
4. Grains, Roots, Potatoes, and Flowers shown must be the product of the seed furnished by the Department of Agriculture.
5. All entries must be in place by 11 o'clock on the day of the Fair.
6. Ribbons will be awarded as well as cash prizes. These ribbons will become the property of the winners.
7. All chickens must be those hatched from eggs supplied by the Department. Coops will be supplied by the School Fair Association.
8. All colts and calves must be cared for by the pupils during the summer and must be halter-broken so that they may be handled by the pupil.
9. In the Driving Contests 100 per cent. will be allowed for skill in driving. Driver must be accompanied by an older person who must not touch the lines unless to avert an accident.
10. Thread, needles and cloth will be supplied for the Sewing Contest to the contestants.
11. Only Prize Ribbons (no prize money) will be given to the pupils from those schools which have not given a donation to the School Fair.
12. The Stock-judging Competition is open to teams of three boys from each school. Boys must have attended school up to March 1st, 1916. Teams will be given one class of heavy horses to judge and will be asked to place the stock first, second and third, and write reasons for so doing. Sixty per cent. will be allowed for placing and forty per cent. for reasons.
13. Pupils making Cookies are requested to use the following recipe:

Cookies.

½ cup White sugar
½ cup Lard
1 egg
Pinch of Salt
¼ cup Sweet Milk
½ tsp. Soda
1 tsp. Cream of Tartar
Flour to stiffen.

PRIZE LIST.

Grain.

Class 1.

Sec. A. Best cared for Plot of O.A.C. No. 72 Oats, 6 prizes; 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 35c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Sec. B. Best Sheaf of 100 heads and 2 quarts of O.A.C. No. 72 Oats; 6 prizes, 1st, 60c.; 2nd, 50c.; 3rd, 40c.; 4th, 35c.; 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Class 2.

Sec. A. Best cared for Plot of O.A.C. No. 21 Barley; 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 35c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Sec. B. Best Sheaf of 100 heads and 2 quarts of O.A.C. No. 21 Barley: 6 prizes, 1st, 60c.; 2nd, 50c.; 3rd, 40c.; 4th, 35c.; 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Class 3.
Best Sheaf of 100 heads and 2 quarts grain, the product of seed of last year's plot of O.A.C. No. 72 Oats; 6 prizes, 1st, 50c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Class 4.
Best Sheaf of 100 heads and 2 quarts of grain, the product of seed of last year's O.A.C. No. 21 Barley; 6 prizes, 1st, 50c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 15c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Roots.

Class 5.
Sec. A. Best cared for Plot of Yellow Leviathan Mangels; 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Sec. B. Best Collection of 3 Yellow Leviathan Mangels; 6 prizes, 1st, 60c.; 2nd, 50c.; 3rd, 40c.; 4th, 35c.; 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Class 6.
Sec. A. Best cared for Plot of Garton's Model Turnips; 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Sec. B. Best Collection of 3 Garton's Model Turnips; 6 prizes, 1st, 60c.; 2nd, 50c.; 3rd, 40c.; 4th. 35c.; 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Class 7.
Sec. A. Best cared for Plot of Garden Beets, Detroit Dark Red; 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Sec. B. Best half-dozen Detroit Dark Red Garden Beets; 6 prizes, 1st, 60c.; 2nd, 50c.; 3rd, 40c.; 4th, 25c.; 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Class 8.
Sec. A. Best cared for Plot of Chantenay Carrots; 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Sec. B. Best half dozen Chantenay Carrots; 6 prizes, 1st, 50c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Class 9.
Sec. A. Best cared for Plot of Irish Cobbler Potatoes; 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Sec. B. Best dozen Irish Cobbler Potatoes; 10 prizes, 1st, 50c.; 2nd, 40c.; 3rd, 35c.; 4th, 30c.; 5th, 25c.; 6th, 20c.; 7th, 15c.; 8th, 10c.; 9th, 5c.; 10th, 5c.

Class 10.
Best dozen (Davies' Warrior) Potatoes from seed of last year's plot; 6 prizes, 1st, 50c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Corn.

Class 11.
Sec. A. Best cared for Plot of Wisconsin No. 7 Silo Corn; 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Sec. B. Best 2 stalks of Wisconsin No. 7 Silo Corn, with ears attached; 6 prizes, 1st, 50c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Class 12.
Sec. A. Best cared for Plot of Golden Bantam Sweet Corn; 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Sec. B. Best dozen ears Golden Bantam Sweet Corn; 6 prizes, 1st, 50c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Flowers.

Class 13.
Best dozen Asters; 6 prizes, 1st, 40c; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Class 14.
Bouquet of Cosmos; 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Class 15.
Bouquet of Phlox; 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Class 16.
Bouquet from Home Garden; (not necessarily from seed supplied); 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Poultry.

Bred-to-lay Barred Rocks.

Class 17.
Sec. A. Best Pen; Cockerel and 2 Pullets; 6 prizes, 1st, 50c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 15c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Sec. B. Best Cockerel; 6 prizes, 1st, 50c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 15c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Sec. C. Best Pullet; 6 prizes, 1st, 50c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 15c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Class 18.
Best pair of chickens descended from eggs supplied in previous years; 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 30c.; 3rd, 20c.; 4th, 10c.; and Ribbons.

Essays.

Note.—Essays to be sent to the Department of Agriculture, at least one week previous to the Fair.

Class 19.
Sec. A. Junior. Open to classes below Senior Third. Essay of at least twenty lines on the subject, "How I

Spend My Saturdays;" 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Sec. B. Senior. Open to classes Senior Third and above. Best essay of at least twenty-five lines on the subject, "Pleasures of Farming;" 6 prizes, 1st, 1 year's subscription to Farmers' Magazine; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Notes on Plot.

Class 20.
Best Notes on Plot; 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Writing.

Class 21.
Sec. A. Junior. Open to all classes below Senior Third. Best sample of Writing of "We'll Never Let the Old Flag Fall;" 6 prizes; 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Sec. B. Open to classes Senior Third and above. Best sample of Writing of "We'll Never Let the Old Flag Fall;" 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Collections.

All Collections must contain at least twenty specimens and must be collected by the exhibitor in 1916.

Class 22.
Collection of Noxious Weeds.

Class 23.
Collection of Weed Seeds.

Class 24.
Collection of Insects, injurious and beneficial, correctly named.

Class 25.
Collection of work of insects and plant diseases.

Class 26.
Collection of Native Woods, showing bark and surfaces.

Class 27.
Collection of Leaves of forest and shade trees.

Class 28.
Collection of Wild Flowers, pressed, mounted and correctly named.

Class 29.
Collection of Grains, Clovers, Grasses and Forage Plants, at least six heads of each.

Six prizes in each section; 1st, 30c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 20c.; 4th, 15c.; 5th, 10c.; 6th, 5c.

Cooking.

Class 30.
Best two loaves of Bread; 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Class 31.
Best half dozen Biscuits; 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th, and 6th, Ribbons.

Class 32.
Best dozen Cookies; 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Class 33.
Best 1 lb. Fudge; 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Sewing.

Class 34.
Best Plain Sewing, Pillow Slip, hand-made; 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Class 35.
Best Fancy Work; 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Class 36.
Hemstitched Towel; 6 prizes; 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Class 37.
Best-mended three-cornered Tear; 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Manual Training.

Class 38.
Best Chicken Coop; 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Class 39.
Best Wagon Jack; 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Class 40.
Best Milk Stool; 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Class 41.
Best Hammer Handle; 6 prizes; 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Live Stock.

Class 42.—All Live Stock must be born after March 1st, 1916.

Sec. A. Best Draught Colt; 6 prizes, 1st, 75c.; 2nd, 50c.; 3rd, 25c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Sec. B. Best Light Colt; 6 prizes, 1st, 75c.; 2nd, 50c.; 3rd, 25c.; 4th, 5th, and 6th, Ribbons.

Sec. C. Best Halter-broken Colt; 6 prizes, 1st, 50c.; 2nd, 35c.; 3rd, 15c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Class 43.

Sec. A. Best Beef Calf; 6 prizes, 1st, 75c.; 2nd, 50c.; 3rd, 25c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Sec. B. Best Dairy Calf; 6 prizes, 1st, 75c.; 2nd, 50c.; 3rd, 25c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Contests.

Class 44.
Sewing Contest; 6 prizes, 1st, [illegible]c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Class 45.
Inter-school Stock Judging Contest. Heavy Horses; 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Class 46.
Sec. A. Best Girl Driver; 6 prizes, 1st, $1.00; 2nd, 75c.; 3rd, 50c.; 4th, 25c.; 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Sec. B. Best Boy Driver; 6 prizes, 1st, $1.00; 2nd, 75c.; 3rd, 50c., 4th, 25c.; 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Miscellaneous.

Class 47.
Best plan of Home Farm, showing location of buildings, roads, fences, wood lots, lanes, and water supply; 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Class 48.
Pint of Mangel Seed; 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Class 49.
Pint of Turnip Seed; 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Special for Boys and Girls under 18 years of age. Not open to Public School Pupils.

Class 50.
Public Speaking Contest; three minute address on any subject; 6 prizes, 1st, 30c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 20c.; 4th, 15c.; 5th, 10c.; 6th, 5c.

Class 51.
Weed Naming Contest; 4 prizes, 1st, 50c.; 2nd, 35c.; 4th, 15c.

Class 52.
Boys' Whittling Contest; each competitor will supply his own knife, and will be given a square stick to whittle out a peg according to a model supplied; 4 prizes, 1st, 50c.; 2nd, 35c.; 3rd, 25c.; 4th, 15c.

Class 53.
Boys' Carpenter Competition; making hen's nest 10 x 12 in. from ½ inch lumber. Material supplied. Contestants to bring hammer, saw and square; 4 prizes, 1st, 35c.; 2nd, 20c.; 3rd, 15c.; 4th, 10c.

Class 54.
Quart Jar of Preserved Plums; 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Class 55.
Quart Jar of Preserved Peaches; 6 prizes, 1st, 40c.; 2nd, 25c.; 3rd, 10c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Class 56.
Best Beef Calf; 6 prizes, 1st, $1.00; 2nd, 50c.; 3rd, 25c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Class 57.
Best Dairy Calf; 6 prizes, 1st, $1.00, 2nd, 50c; 3rd, 25c.; 4th, 5th and 6th, Ribbons.

Class 58.
Special by the Campbell Flour Mills Co. Open to girls between 12 and 17 years of age, not necessarily attending school. For best Loaf of Bread, baked with Cream of the West Flour; 2 prizes, 1st, 1 paid-up subscription to "My Magazine," (published in England), for one year, value $2.50; 2nd, 1 paid-up subscription to "My Magazine" for six months, value $1.25.
When the total number of entries in the contest exceeds ten, a third prize of six months' subscription to "My Magazine" will be awarded. When the total number of entries exceeds twenty, the judges will award 4th, 5th and 6th prizes, one year's subscription to the "Little Paper."

Provincial Contest.

The winner of the first prize at the Rural School Fair also becomes automatically a competitor for the Provincial prizes. One half of her twin-loaf of bread is sent to Guelph to compete with those of other first prize winners all over the Province. The Provincial prizes are as follows:

1st prize: Short Course (three months) in Domestic Science at Macdonald Institute, Guelph, value $75.00.

2nd prize: Short Course (three months) in Domestic Science at Macdonald Institute, Guelph, value $75.00.

3rd prize: Short Course (four weeks) in Poultry Raising at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, value, $35.00.

4th prize: Short Course (four weeks) in Poultry Raising at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, value, $35.00

5th to 29th prizes: The famous Boston Cooking School Cook Book.

Programme.

9.00-11.00 a.m.—Placing of Exhibits, work in charge of Directors and Teachers.
11.00-11.30 a.m.—Stock Judging Contest. Sewing Contest.
11.30- 1.00 p.m.—Lunch.
1.00- 3.00 p.m.—School Parade and Sports.
3.00- 4.00 p.m.—Judging Live Stock.
4.00- 4.30 p.m.—Driving Contests.
Tent open at 4.30 p.m.

Sports.

(Ribbon Prizes.)

1. Girls' Race, under 8 years.
2. Boys' Race, under 8 years.
3. Girls' Race, under 10 years.
4. Boys' Race, under 10 years.
5. Girls' Race, under 12 years.
6. Boys' Race, under 12 years.
7. Girls' Three-legged Race.
8. Boys' Three-legged Race.
9. Sack Race, Girls.
10. Sack Race, Boys.
11. Teachers' Race.
12. Trustees' Race.
13. Pick-a-back Race.
14. Boot and Shoe Race, Boys.
15. Boot and Shoe Race, Girls.
16. Peanut Race.
17. Basket Ball Throwing Contest.
18. High Jump, Boys over 12.
19. Standing Broad Jump, Boys over 12.
20. Play Fest.

The Directors and Teachers will be in charge of the different classes.

A booth will be conducted by the School Fair Association.

The Executive of one Rural School Fair.